

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for arranging data, said method comprising:
  - a) receiving said data comprising a plurality of records, each said record
  - 5 having a plurality of attributes;
  - b) determining a set of attributes selected from said plurality of attributes, said set of attributes for placement of said plurality of records in a graphically displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of data points, each said data point representing one record of said plurality of records;
  - 10 c) arranging said plurality of records to construct said graphically displayable array for presenting said data in a format for detecting relationships between said plurality of records.
2. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said set of attributes
- 15 comprises:
  - at least one dividing attribute,
  - a first ordering attribute corresponding to a first axis,
  - a second ordering attribute corresponding to a second axis, and
  - a visual indicator attribute corresponding to a visual indicator.
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3. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said step c) comprises sorting said plurality of records by a first dividing attribute, said first dividing attribute

corresponding to said first axis, and partitioning said plurality of records into groups according to said first dividing attribute;

4. A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said step c) further comprises:

5 sorting said records of each said group according to said first ordering attribute and said second ordering attribute; and

applying said visual indicator to each of said plurality of records according to said visual indicator attribute.

10 5. A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said step c) further comprises:

sorting said records of each of said groups according to a second dividing attribute, said second dividing attribute corresponding to said second axis, and partitioning said records of each of said groups into sub-groups according to said second dividing attribute;

15 sorting said records of each said sub-group according to said first ordering attribute and said second ordering attribute; and

applying said visual indicator to each of said plurality of records according to said visual indicator attribute.

20 6. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein each said data point is represented by a pixel on a display.

7. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said first axis is a horizontal axis.

8. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

9. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

10. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said graphically displayable array is a pixel bar chart.

11. A computer system comprising:  
a bus;  
a display device coupled to said bus;  
15 a computer-readable memory coupled to said bus; and  
a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method for arranging data, said method comprising:  
a) receiving said data comprising a plurality of records, each said record having a plurality of attributes;  
20 b) determining a set of attributes selected from said plurality of attributes, said set of attributes for placement of said plurality of records in a graphically